Numb. CXXIX.

The GUARDIAN.

——*Animaſque in Vulnere ponunt.* Virg.

Saturday, Auguſt 8. 1713.

ANGER is ſo uneaſie a Gueſt in the Heart, that he may be ſaid to be born unhappy who is of a rough and cholerick Diſpoſition. The Moraliſts have defined it to be, *a deſire of Revenge for ſome Injury offered.* Men, of hot and heady Tempers, are eagerly deſirous of Vengeance, the very Moment they apprehend themſelves injured: Whereas the Cool and Sedate watch proper Opportunities to return Grief for Grief to their Enemy. By this Means, it often happens that the Cholerick inflict diſproportioned Puniſhments, upon ſlight, and ſometimes imaginary Offences: but the temperately Revengeful have leiſure to weigh the Merits of the Cauſe; and thereby either to ſmother their ſecret Reſentments, or to ſeek proper and adequate Reparations for the Damages they have ſuſtained. Weak Minds are apt to ſpeak well of the Man of Fury; becauſe, when the Storm is over, he is full of Sorrow and Repentance; but the Truth is, he is apt to commit ſuch Ravages during his Madneſs, that when he comes to himſelf, he becomes Tame then, for the ſame Reaſon that he ran Wild before, *only to give himſelf Eaſe*; and is a Friend only to himſelf in both Extremities. Men of this unhappy Make, more frequently than any others, expect that their Friends ſhould bear with their Infirmities. Their Friends ſhould in Return deſire them to correct their Infirmities. The common Excuſes, That they cannot help it, That it is ſoon over, That they harbour no Malice in their Hearts, are Arguments for pardoning a Bull or a Maſtiff; but ſhall never reconcile me to an intellectual Salvage. Why, indeed, ſhould any one imagine, that Perſons, independent upon him, ſhould venture into his Society, who hath not yet ſo far ſubdued his boiling Blood, but that he is ready to do ſomething, the next Minute, which he can never repair; and hath nothing to plead in his own behalf, but that he is apt to do Miſchief as faſt as he can. Such a Man may be feared, he may be pitied, he can never be loved.

(Price Two Pence.)

I would not hereby be ſo underſtood, as if I meant to recommend ſlow and deliberate Malice: I would only obſerve, that Men of Moderation are of a more amiable Character than the Raſh and Inconſiderate; but if they do not husband the Talent that Heaven hath beſtowed upon them, they are as much more odious than the Cholerick, as the Devil is more horrible than a Brute. It is hard to ſay which of the two, when injured, is more troubleſome to himſelf, or more hurtful to his Enemy; the one is boiſtrous and gentle by Fits, dividing his Life between Guilt and Repentance, now all Tempeſt, again all Sunſhine: The other hath a ſmoother but more laſting Anguiſh, lying under a perpetual Gloom; the latter is a cowardly Man, the former a generous Beaſt. If he may be held unfortunate who cannot be ſure but that he may do ſomething the next Minute which he ſhall lament during his Life; what ſhall we think of him, who hath a Soul ſo infected, that he can never be happy till he hath made another miſerable? What Wars may we imagine perpetually raging in his Breaſt? what dark Stratagems, unworthy Deſigns, inhumane Wiſhes, dreadful Reſolutions! A Snake curled in many intricate Mazes, ready to ſting a Traveller, and to hiſs him in the Pangs of Death, is no unfit Emblem of ſuch an artful, unſearchable Projector. Were I to chuſe an Enemy, whether ſhould I wiſh for one that would ſtab me ſuddenly; or one that would give me an *Italian* Poiſon, ſubtle and lingring, yet as certainly fatal as the Stroak of a Stilletto: Let the Reader determine the Doubt in his own Mind.

There is yet a third ſort of Revenge, if it may be called a third, which is compounded of the other two: I mean the miſtaken Honour which hath too often a place in generous Breaſts. Men of good Education, tho' naturally Cholerick, reſtrain their Wrath ſo far as to ſeek convenient Times for Vengeance. The ſingle Combat ſeems ſo generous a way of ending Controverſies, that, till we have ſtricter